

[SANCTUARY]

Simon Beck: Sanctuary's New Executive Director

With gratitude and anticipation, the Board of Directors is pleased to announce the appointment of our new Executive Director, Simon Beck, who will begin his responsibilities on September 19, 2022.

Simon has deep roots in the Sanctuary community. Beginning at his first Sanctuary drop-in over sixteen years ago (while he was still in high school!), Simon felt invited into a community that extended warmth and welcome. Here at Sanctuary, Simon experienced that place envisioned in the prophets, where rich and poor can be reconciled by actually knowing each other and mutually understanding that their hope lies in bearing with and carrying each other.

Simon's connection with Sanctuary deepened and grew over the years, even as he continued his schooling overseas. He has been a longtime member of the Sunday church community, and has lived with and shared regular meals with community members. Eventually, Simon's professional



expertise and deep heart for Sanctuary led to his involvement as a member of the Board of Directors, where he has served as Treasurer since 2017.

Simon's professional background has prepared him uniquely to lead Sanctuary into this next stage of our journey, as the community rebuilds after the pandemic and negotiates its identity after the retirements of both the founder, Greg Paul, and long-time ED, Alan Beattie. Simon has spent almost a decade at the Boston Consulting Group, helping advise not-for-profits, foundations, governments, and businesses on how to create greater social and environmental benefits and how to manage complex organizational change. His extensive experience in listening, hearing, engaging and facilitating teams will enable him to lead Sanctuary through this period of transition. Academically, Simon has been trained in development economics, public policy, and the economics of poverty



and the environment. He also has a Master of Theological Studies that specialized in urban development.

Most importantly, however, this impressive and extensive experience is rooted in theological depth and a faith that sees Sanctuary as a place where the gospel is embodied. At Sanctuary, Simon has come to more deeply understand both the depth of injustice and brokenness in our world, and the first fruits of God's faithful promises to bind up the broken, make home for the lonely, and set the captives free. Sanctuary continues to seek to be a community where together we are all becoming healthy, and where all are welcomed and held in love, particularly the poor and excluded. The Board, on behalf of the community and staff, welcomes Simon as he enters more deeply into this journey.



A Heartfelt Thank-You

The Board of Directors would like to extend deep gratitude to our Interim Executive Director, Thea Prescod, and our two Deputy Executive Directors, Rachel Tulloch and Simon Beirsto, for leading Sanctuary over the last 9 months. These have been months of challenge as Covid caught up with many of our staff, and as we began to envision once more what it looks like to live into our vision and nourish community in a post-pandemic world.



We are deeply grateful for the commitment and guidance of this leadership team, and for the ongoing faithfulness of our staff to the Sanctuary community. You embody the gospel in our community, and for that we give thanks to God.

A note from the incoming Executive Director

I am honoured and humbled to be joining the staff team at Sanctuary. Over the past 16+ years, I have had the immense pleasure to participate in the life of our community to varying degrees. I am filled with a deep sense of gratitude as I reflect on how friends at Sanctuary have welcomed me, laughed with me, grieved with me, and loved me over the years. Sanctuary has been a place that has deeply shaped my faith, my understanding of the injustice of the world, and my hope that a more just and kind world is possible. To the community members, volunteers and staff — past and present — I want to offer thanks for all they have given to shape our life together. I am honoured to take on this role and help lead us as we move forward on this journey. In particular, I have long respected the faith, wisdom and dedication of our staff team and I look forward to learning from their deep experience as we take these next steps. To our broader community of supporters, I ask that you continue to hold us in your prayers as we navigate this period of transition. I am excited for where God will lead us next. Peace and grace, Simon